

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT
SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the bill providing right to information to citizens and diluting the effect of the Official Secrets Act, has been finalised;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the bill; and
- (c) the time by which the said bill is likely to be presented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a),(b)&(c): With a view to introducing greater transparency and openness in the functioning of Government and public bodies, the Government had, in January, 1997, constituted a Working Group on 'Right to Information and Promotion of Open and Transparent Government' under the Chairmanship of Shri H.D. Shourie. The report of the Working Group has been processed and a Bill for Freedom of Information has been drafted. The Bill is presently under examination for introduction in Parliament.